



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

What? Why? Where? Who? When?

Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program

What Is Csepp?

CSEPP is the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program.

It is one facet of the multihazard readiness program in seven U.S. communities to deal with natural and man-made emergencies of all kinds. Depending on the location of the community, such emergencies may include tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, fires, hazardous materials spills or releases and transportation and industrial accidents.

The program's goal is to improve preparedness to protect the people of these communities in the unlikely event of an accident involving this country's stockpiles of obsolete chemical munitions, nerve agents and blister agents.

Why Is This Emergency Preparedness Effort Needed Now?

The Army has safely stored this country's chemical agents since the time of World Wars I and II.

In 1985, Congress ordered the Army to destroy the stockpiles and to provide "maximum protection" to the public who live and work in communities near the stockpiles now and until the chemical agents are eliminated.

The congressional mandate came about for a number of reasons, including:

- The munitions are obsolete and many are deteriorating while in storage;

- This country seeks a world-wide ban on the production, retention and use of such munitions and agents;
- Public and official recognition and concern about the risks associated with storing and using these chemical agents has increased in recent years; and
- Earlier studies of emergency preparedness capabilities of the communities near the seven stockpiles indicated inadequacies or shortfalls, to varying degrees, and the need for enhancement of existing emergency plans, training, equipment and/or facilities.

Where Are These Stockpiles Located?

The stockpiles are located in seven communities in the continental United States. Because two of the seven stockpile sites are near state borders, 40 counties in nine states participate in the program. The Army stockpile sites and participating states are as follows:

- Anniston Chemical Activity located on Anniston Army Depot (Alabama)
- Blue Grass Chemical Activity located on Blue Grass Army Depot (Kentucky)
- Newport Chemical Depot (Indiana & Illinois)
- Pine Bluff Chemical Activity located on Pine Bluff Arsenal (Arkansas)
- Pueblo Chemical Depot (Colorado)
- Deseret Chemical Depot located on the South Area of Tooele Army Depot (Utah)
- Umatilla Chemical Depot (Oregon & Washington)

For more information, contact the CMA Public Affairs Office at (410) 436-3629 (800) 488-0648



What? Why? Where? Who? When? (continued)

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WHO'S INVOLVED IN THIS EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM?

Local and state emergency services, as well as public health, environmental, fire and rescue, law enforcement and medical services agencies have major roles, along with elected and appointed officials.

The Army, as custodian of the stockpiles, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which has long-standing experience in preparing for and dealing with all kinds of emergencies, provide funding, training, guidance and technical support and expertise. Other federal agencies, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services also lend their expertise in specific areas of the program.

The program is a cooperative effort among local, state and federal agencies and jurisdictions. Community and public participation in and knowledge of the program are essential to its success.

WHEN WILL THIS PROGRAM BEGIN?

The program is well under way. Communities and states are already reaping the benefits in improved emergency facilities, equipment, training and planning. Many of these enhancements increase their capabilities to deal with more likely emergencies such as transportation accidents involving hazardous materials, floods and fires, as well as a chemical stockpile emergency. And, these and other planned emergency preparedness enhancements will remain after the stockpiles have been eliminated.

Among the enhancements are new command and public/media information facilities, communications equipment, sirens and tone-alert radios to warn and instruct the public, computerized planning and accident assessment tools, automated on-post and off-post communication systems and improved emergency personnel training.